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## No. XXVI

After this we made another attempt to see the chapel of the Armenian convent, but again without success. Then I went to the Z. n. G. a. e., and walked round to the Jaffa—the only portion of the circuit that remained to be tried.

April 14th.—A hot day—theometer 78—in the afternoon. I attended the English church in the forenoon, making one of a tolerably large audience, of which a considerable number were merely passing travellers like myself. Some parts of the service received additional impressiveness from the locality. In the afternoon I walked with Mr. H. over the Mount of Olives, crossing the dry bed of the Kidron by a bridge. Some of the olive trees on the lower part of the

some caves black as if scorched by fire, and in some parts remarkably constricted. After a time we left the valley and struck northward into another, presenting a similar scene of desolation. We rested for an hour, and had lunch on the summit of a ridge beside some old cisterns and underground tanks. Some caverns in the neighborhood of the rock are occasionally used by robbers as lurking-places. The clouds had all cleared away by this time, and the day became very hot. As we descended the eastern slope the scenery became more wild. "A most miserable day bettered this day," says Maundrell who travelled this road 167 years ago—"consisting of high rocky mountains, without order or design, as if the earth had here suffered some great convulsion in which its very bowels had been turned outward." By and by, the road led along the brink of a narrow rocky gorge, some 800 feet deep, the precipitous sides of which were pierced with many gratings of iron (see p. 139). Maundrell, the poetical tourist, is wonderfully full of comment and glorification, and writes, "The ruggedness of the rocks is such as to strike the most magnificent and grand ideas for that purpose." The poetic life of the poet and student of to-morrow, so extensively employed during the early centuries of Christianity in Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia, is a very curious psychological phenomenon, in which we see these days of fervent Christianity and fierce religious belief cannot easily comprehend the rivulet that flows down the romantic hills is thought to be the track *Cherith* where Elijah was fed by ravens. On emerging from deep defiles upon the summit of the last ridge we com-

We breakfasted very early, and were off to the Dead Sea by six o'clock—a great array of nearly forty mounted people. The Agha escorted us with his irregulars—twenty picturesque fellows, armed with long spears, guns, and pistols. The covered round and round, had sham fights, and entertained us with many fine feats of horsemanship. The beautiful horse of the Agha tripped on something and rolled over while at full speed, but horse and rider picked themselves up and appeared none the worse. The distance to the shore of the Dead Sea was about eight miles, over broken and soft ground, with hillocks of soft clay, and intersected by ridges made by winter torrents. Some of these were very troublesome to cross. It is sometimes said that there is no vegetable in animal life about the Dead Sea; but we saw many birds flying, and the ground was sprinkled with shrubs and pretty flowers. Where we struck the water the beach was deeply and bordered by drift-wood and reeds; a small island lay a little off the shore. The water was clear and smooth, pleasant to the eye, but horribly bitter and nauseous to the taste. I bailed in it, and found the sensation of buoyancy to be very singular. The comicality of it must have struck my three companions as much as myself, for I think we simultaneously burst into a fit of laughter. I found I could make no progress when trying to swim in the usual position, as I could not keep my feet under water; and it was only by floating on my back and paddling with my hands that I could get along. It was a re-

me. \_\_\_\_\_

(From the Daily Southern Cross, April 19.)

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At a monster meeting held at Wellington, on the 12th instant, Mr. Ward, in acknowledging a vote of thanks for his services in regard to the Panama canal, took occasion to say that he was a native of the same sea and it was to him most gratifying to receive such a token of esteem as that just passed. It was always a great pleasure to a public servant to be thanked in the manner he had been so gratified, by the people of his native land, for having done his duty but it was much more gratifying to him than any other existing circumstances. He remembered, too, that he was comparatively a stranger amongst them, and that he had been in the colony for only a few years, transferred upon him. A large body of his fellow-colonists, who had all the means of judging on the question, had said that evening, by their unanimous vote, that he had done his duty with regard to the great question then under discussion. It was a very satisfactory and a personal endeavour appreciated by one's country, in matters of public interest, however small; but it was something beyond a satisfaction in an important affair like the present. At the same time, he was not unmindful of the fact that he was unemployed, as he occupied, at that time, a very painful position. He could hardly trust himself to speak of the Panama contract as it then stood, and he hoped they would neither expect nor allow him to say himself, he was in a difficult position, as he was and the Government on the matter. He had two reasons for this firstly, because he had not yet become sufficiently used to his present position in connection with the matter, and he might say himself, he was in a difficult position, as he was and the Government on the matter. He had two reasons for this firstly, because he had not yet become sufficiently used to his present position in connection with the matter, and he might say himself, he was in a difficult position, as he was and the Government on the matter.

aware that negotiations were going on, and that the Government was about to conclude a new contract, having ascertained that tenders would be received, they began seriously to consider the advisability of tendering for the service. The directors put their heads together, and, finding that they had no chance of obtaining the contract, it would ultimately have a very damaging effect on the welfare of the I. R. M. Company, they determined to make an effort. Well, negotiation followed negotiation, and the Government had no doubt, but the directors and which had been subjected to such a deal of discussion in the colony, was the result. The terms they were acquainted with, and it was only a matter of time, before they were offered the offer to perform the service for £63,000 per annum a most advantageous one for the colony. He knew that at that time the I. R. M. Company had a contract with the Government of New Zealand, and they perceived that the management of the company was not always been the case. The company had been in very great disarray in the colony some years ago. When he (Mr. Ward) first took office as Postmaster-General, one of the first things he was asked to do was to take the management of the company, telling him that the Government could no longer submit to have the services performed in such a slovenly manner, and that some alteration should take place. At that time he was not acquainted with the company, but in the person of Captain John Vine Hall, and it was not too much to say that he redeemed the company from the disgrace which then hung over it. He knew of his own knowledge that the directors had freely agreed to do what was suggested, and he had no doubts, but, making alterations in the old one, under the supervision and by the advice of Captain Hall. He also knew that, at the company already had a contract which would not have been altered, but, under the supervision of the Government, and over which the Government held but little control except in purely matters of detail. This contract was for performing certain stipulated services, and the amount paid afterwards was £42,000 per annum, which was a very good Government rate. The Government had given the Government paid £13,000, and the Government paid £29,000. He did not want under any circumstances, to interfere with this £13,000, lest it might have betrayed the colony, if he had not at that time.

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... of the best steam or household oil and  
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 Has every requisite for conducting a extensive  
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of which about 3000 are plains, and the remainder forest. It is watered by the Windouradale and Apperocks, both being auriferous, and rich quartz reefs are supposed to exist on the property. It extends to within 10 miles of Bathurst, and has been long occupied by the selector as a run for his more valuable property. It is particularly well adapted for stock raising, and will be furnished by DAVID JOHNSTONE, Esq., of the residence at Glamorgan; or by the undersigned, who will be intending purchasers.

HENRY MOORE, agent for Sir William Wyndham, Bart., of the West, Sydney, 26th February, 1854.

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MURUMBIDGE RIVER.—A very beautiful square in the

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KYNIBAL—Nine blocks, with 25,701  
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 about 50 young lambs, principally large weight  
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